

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W

-----058380 210550Z /11

R 191348Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5831

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, GR, NO

SUBJ: PAPANDREOU VISIT TO NORWAY MAY 8-11

1. SUMMARY. ANDREAS PAPENDREOU, LEADER OF THE PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT(PASOK) OF GREECE, ACCOMPANIED BY MOVIE ACTRESS MELINA MERCOURI, VISITED OSLO IAS THE GUEST OF THE NORWEGIAN LOABOR PARTY THE WEEK OF MAY 8. PAPENDREOU MET WITH LEADERS OF THE NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY AND LO, AND WITH PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND FORMIN FRYDENLUND. AT THE END OF THE VISIT, LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN REIULF STEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT WOULD INAUGURATE A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH PASOK. END SUMMARY.

2. ADREAS PAPENDREOU, LEADER OF PASOK, ACCOMPANED BY MOVIE ACTRESS MELINE MERCOURI, VISITED OSLO THE WEEK OF MAY 8 AS THE GUEST OF THE NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY. PAPENDREOU ALSO MET WITH PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI AND FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND.

3. AT A MAY 11 PRESS CONFERENCE, PANDREOU DESCRIBED GREECE AS A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SATELLITE OF THE US AND NOTAO,
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AND THAT HIS COUNTRY STILL HAD ONLY LIMITED INDEPENDENCE AND DEMONCRACY. HE ALSO STATED THAT IF HIS PARTY CAME TO POWER, IT WOULD SEEK TO NATIONALIZE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES IN GREECE, INCLUDING BANKING, INSURANCE, ENERGY, AND THE PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. PAPANDREOU ALSO REPLIED TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE GREEK ARMY TO THE NEW ORDER, SAYING THAT HE HOPED THE ARMY HAD LEARNED

A LESSON AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP, AND THAT, ON THE WHOLE, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE MILITARY'S REFRAINING FROM INTERFERING IN POLITICS AT THE PRESENT.

4. THE LABOR PARTY, EMBARRASSED BY PAPANDREOU'S REMARKS ON NATO, RESPONDED VIA AN EDITORIAL IN THE OFFICIAL PARTY DAILY ARBEIDERBLADET ON MAY 12, SAYING THAT NORWAY DOES NOT SHARE PASOK VIEWS ON NATO. QUOTE WE HAVE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE WITH NATO THAN GREECE HAS HAD. WE UNDERSTAND PASOK'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS WITHOUT FEELING THAT THEY REPRESENT A FORMULA FOR THE TYPE OF FOREIGN POLICY TO BE PURSUED BY NORWAY. IDENTICAL POLITICAL PROGRAMS ARE NOT A REQUISITE FOR CARRYING OUT A CLOSE AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES UNQUOTE, THE ARBEIDERBLADET EDITORIAL CONCLUDED.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT, LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN REIULF STEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT WOULD INAUGURATE A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH PASOK, WITH EMPHASIS ON BUILDING UP THE GREEK PARTY AND TRADE UNION INSTITUTIONS ALONG SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LINES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE LABOR PARTY AND LO WILL SEND A DELEGATION TO GREECE LATER THIS YEAR TO DETERMINE HOW THIS COOPERATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST FORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE LEADERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND GREEK SOCIALISTS SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE DICTATORSHIP. WHILE NORWEGIAN LABOR WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PASOK CAUSE, ITS CLOSE TIES WITH BUCEVIT AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN TURKEY TEMPORARILY INHIBITED ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES WITH PASOK. GON AND LABOR PARTY LEADERS ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP CONTACT WITH PASOK BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY MAY BE IN POWER IN THE NEAR FUTURE. LO HOPES THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GREEK UNIONS WILL LEAD TO A STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION INSTITUTIONS IN GREECE, LO IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN UNIONS IN THE IMPORTANT GREEK SHIPPING INDUSTRY, WHERE WAGES AND LABOR STANDARDS ARE MUCH LOWER THAN IN THE NORWEGIAN MERCHANT FLEET.

7. AS REPORTED TO EMBOFF, PAPANDREOU IN HIS MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE STORTING RECEIVED A MIXED RECEPTION FROM LABOR AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS ALIKE. AT THE STORTING, IT WAS A REPEAT OF THE GENERALLY NEGATIVE REACTION ELICITED BY ISRAELI FORMIN DAYAN A WEEK EARLIER, WHO CAME ON IN THE SAME VERY STRONG WAY AS PAPANDREOU. AT THIS TIME IN NORWAY THE APPEAL OF CHARISMATIC POLITICAL HEROES LIKE PAPANDREOU AND DAYAN IS BEGINNING TO WEAR A LITTLE THIN, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE VISITORS

USE NORWAY AS A PLATFORM FOR EXPRESSING POLITICAL VIEWS THAT
ARE AT ODDS WITH THE POPULAR CONSENSUS HERE. DAYAN'S HARD
LINE, AND PAPANDREOU'S ATTACK ON NATO HAD A REAL SHOCK EFFECT
HERE, EVEN ON THEIR ESSENTIALLY FREIENDLY AUDIENCES.
LERNER

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO02438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780213-0950
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780540/aaaabhlb.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d3d8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2637947
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAPANDREOU VISIT TO NORWAY MAY 8-11
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, GR, NO, PASOK, (PAPENDREOU, ANDREA)
To: STATE ATHENS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d3d8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014